

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In the latest Office Action, claims 1-15 were rejected. With this amendment, claims 1, 7, 8, and 12 are amended, and claims 9, 10, and 13-15 are canceled. On the basis of the following remarks, consideration of this application and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

The claims were rejected as either anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,299,266 to Justice et al. or as made obvious by Justice in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,606,242 to Goodman et al. Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims, as amended herein, are patentable over the cited references, alone or in any combination. In particular, none of the cited references disclose or suggest a removable mounting structure for a computer chassis in the particular configuration of the chassis that is now claimed.

The claims have generally been amended to recite that the removable mounting structure is placed into a computer chassis through a top opening of the chassis. The claims have further been amended to recite that the mounting structure sits below another drive bay in the computer chassis. In this configuration, access to the mounting structure is via a path through this upper drive bay. It can be appreciated that this claimed chassis configuration may make access to the lower drives difficult.

To address this problem, the claimed invention provides a removable mounting structure to which one or more computer drives or storage devices can be attached. The mounting structure can be installed in the computer chassis at a location below another upper drive bay. Once the mounting structure is installed, an additional storage device may be installed into the upper drive bay, which may cover the mounting structure. To access drives in the mounting structure after they are installed (e.g., as claimed in method claim 12), any upper drive is

removed from the upper drive bay, and the mounting structure can then simply be lifted out of the chassis.

Justice does not disclose the claimed features, in part, because Justice's chassis configuration is much different than the claimed chassis configuration. FIG. 1 of Justice, reproduced below, illustrates the installation of a drive (110) into a chassis (100).

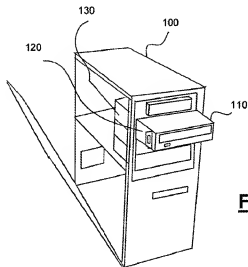


Fig 1

Rather than being installed through a top opening in the chassis, Justice's drives are slid into place through openings in the front faceplate of the computer.

Because its drives are each easily accessible through the front face of the computer chassis, Justice does not experience the same design difficulties that the claimed invention addresses. When a computer chassis is designed so that computer drives can be slid into the chassis through a front faceplate, the access, installation, and removal of these drives is a trivial matter. But for other configurations — such as the claimed chassis in which drives are installed through the top — it can be more difficult to access the computer drives. This problem is compounded when those computer drives sit lower in the chassis and/or below other computer drive bays (as further claimed). This requires the user to reach deep into the chassis to attach or remove drives.

Because Justice's chassis is differently configured and its drives are not installed as claimed, the claims are patentable over Justice.

It is noted that Goodman is directed to an adapter bracket that allows a smaller (e.g., 3.5-inch) drive to be installed in a larger (e.g., 5.25-inch) drive bay. Goodman, however, is silent as to how its drive or adapter bracket would be installed in a computer chassis and or how the drives in a chassis might be configured. Accordingly, Goodman does not disclose or suggest the claim limitations discussed above.

Based on the foregoing, the application is in condition for allowance of all claims, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the examiner believes for any reason direct contact would help advance the prosecution of this case to allowance, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
YI-LUNG KUO

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